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beautiful plates we first find the delicate sculptures of the tomb-chapel of "Pa-aten-m-heb," who was a royal craftsman, a fact which probably accounts for the high character of the reliefs which fill his chapel walls. No museum in Europe possesses a tomb-chapel of the Empire which compares with this Leyden treasure in beauty. On Plate VII Dr. Boeser gives us the remarkable figure of the harper singing the banquet song with its burden of "Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die." The noble head of the harper in its powerful individuality is one of the finest things surviving from ancient art. The excellence of this plate is such that this hitherto almost unnoticed *chef-d'œuvre* of oriental art can now be studied by everyone, almost as well as from the original itself. In general art value the fragments from the walls of Haremhab's tomb (Plates XXI-XXV) deserve as a whole even a higher place. Dr. Boeser has wisely secured also a cast of the Vienna fragment and inserted it among the Leyden fragments in its proper place which I assigned to it thirteen years ago.

It would be impossible to discuss the wealth of sculpture from the best period of Egyptian art, which these thirty-eight plates, the first instalment of the Empire, offer. The editorial apparatus furnished by Dr. Boeser maintains the high level of excellence displayed in the earlier sections of this monumental work, which places all students of art, archaeology, and history under a great debt.

JAMES HENRY BREASTED

EGYPTIAN PALEOGRAPHY¹

This third volume of Moeller's admirable work covers the period of declining Egyptian civilization from the middle of the tenth century B.C. to the third century A.D., roughly a thousand years, at the end of which both hieratic and demotic began to be slowly displaced by Coptic. It thus concludes the presentation of the materials for a paleographical survey of some three thousand three hundred years. Moeller demonstrates the gradual crystallization of the old "book-hand" after the beginning of this last millennium of the development, until it became a purely artificial hand as dead as hieroglyphic itself. The correlative development, viz., the growth of a still more rapid cursive to become after the eighth century B.C. the familiar demotic of the Hellenistic and Roman age, does not fall within the scope of Moeller's work as a study of hieratic paleography. We congratulate Dr. Moeller on the accuracy and care which these seventy-two laborious plates exhibit, as well as on the successful completion of this monumental enterprise, for which Egyptology owes him a great debt of gratitude. In a fourth volume Dr. Moeller purposes to discuss the great survey of materials

¹ HIERATISCHE PALAEOGRAPHIE. Dritter Band. Von der zweihundzwanzigsten Dynastie bis zum dritten Jahrhundert nach Christo. Mit elf Tafeln Schriftproben. Von Georg Moeller. Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, 1912.

presented in these three volumes. It is much to be hoped that he may also add our only lacking chapter in the history of Egyptian cursive writing, namely, a volume on demotic, an undertaking on which I am told he is now engaged.

JAMES HENRY BREASTED

DOCUMENTS OF MURASHU SONS OF NIPPUR

Another volume of texts¹ by Professor Clay completes the Murashu archives dated in the reign of Darius II, with the exception of a number in the possession of private individuals (Preface, p. 7). A cursory reading of the texts revealed few which differ in content from those published in Vols. IX and X. The chief value of these documents, therefore, is to be found in the personal names which they contain, from which we are able to trace in some small degree the movements of the Indo-European and Hebrew-Aramean peoples in this period. Professor Clay acknowledges in his preface the help of Professor Torrey and Dr. Louis H. Gray in the identification of Persian names, and that of Professor Ranke, who was able to identify several Egyptian names. A number of Aramaic indorsements have been added to the list already published in the Harper memorial volumes. This addition to the documents from the time of Darius II should offer an inducement to someone to make a thorough study of the economic and social conditions of this period of history.

TEMPLE ARCHIVES FROM THE CASSITE PERIOD

Now that the date of the First Dynasty of Babylon seems to be fixed astronomically at 2225-1926 B.C. (see Kugler, *Sternkunde*, etc., II, 2, Heft 1), the gap between the end of that dynasty and the reign of Burna-Buriash again stretches over more than half a millennium. The documents from, or referring to, this obscure period are so few in number that scholars are ever on the lookout for any ray of light that may be shed upon it. It was hoped that the publication of more of the Nippur tablets might throw some light—indirect, to be sure, from the nature of the documents—upon the reigns preceding that of Burna-Buriash. But the new volume² of texts from the Cassite period, although rich in philological material, contains little of historical importance. Professor Clay was able to point to "several additional minor gains for the understanding of the chronology of the Cassite

¹ BUSINESS DOCUMENTS OF MURASHU SONS OF NIPPUR DATED IN THE REIGN OF DARIUS II. By Albert T. Clay. Vol. II, No. 1, of "Publications of the Babylonian Section, the Museum," University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, 1912. 54 pp., 123 plates.

² DOCUMENTS FROM THE TEMPLE ARCHIVES OF NIPPUR DATED IN THE REIGNS OF CASSITE RULERS. By Albert T. Clay. Vol. II, No. 2, of "Publications of the Babylonian Section, the Museum," University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, 1912. Pages numbered 63-92, 72 plates.